AN

INAUGURAL ESSAY,

ENTITLED

THE HISTORY OF THE MATERIA MEDICA;

AND

SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINATION

OF THE

FACULTY OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

FOR THE

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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FEBRUARY, 1858.

In looking back to the origin of the art of medicine, we find, so far as the ancient records, that have escaped the hands of barbarians & the still more destructive & devastating ravages of "all-destroying time", enable us now to judge, its first foundation to be owing "to fickle chance", to unforeseen events, & to natural instinct.

Its rise appears to have been owing to repeated trials & long experience, which gave an insight into the virtues of herbs plants, & minerals, - & in what complaints they were attended with success. How soon a sect of men, exclusively applied themselves to the healing art, & separated themselves from other pursuits, in order to direct their attention to the study & nature of disease, & to aid their fellow creatures by a knowledge of their attainments of the virtues of remedies, it is now impossible to ascertain; for lost in the depths of an unrecorded antiquity, the earlier pages of medical, as well as general history, are few, obscure & unsatisfactory. Of the years before the flood, we can catch but those

rare & partial glimpses which Omnipotence has been pleased to reveal in the writings of Moses, glimpses which are hardly sufficient for the construction of a plausible hypothesis, or the foundation of a probable conjecture. Like travellers, enveloped in an Alpine mist, we wander in darkness & uncertainty, without compass to direct, or planet to enlighten us —

"Involvêre diem nimbi, et nox humida cœlum
Abstulit."

Blessed nevertheless with a favorable climate, & divested of those multitudinous sources of disease arising from a luxuriant diet & other causes of a later date, their complaints must have been few in number, & were most probably chiefly such as spring from accidents of various kinds, such as mankind in the first ages, a wandering, scattered race, living upon the spontaneous fruits of the soil, or the flesh afforded by the chase, must consequently have been subjected to; Surgery was therefore the most probable precursor of the present more extensive

range of medicine.

Those who by their skill in curing the sick, came at length to be ranked as a separate & distinct class of society, were denominated Empirics, which signifies in the Greek experience. The word, however misapplied at present, to quacks and illiterate pretenders, will for-ever point out the only true method of medical improvement. Had as much time been spent, in sedulously making cautious experiments, & in writing accurate histories of diseases, as in inventing new theories, and intermingling false philosophy, with true physical knowledge, medicine would have been much farther advanced, & would have stood on a more secure foundation. For by the disposition to speculate upon slight & insufficient data, to the neglect of accurate & patient observation, the most ardent & enthusiastic inquirers after truth have been allured "from the direct forthright," and following the brilliant creations of their own fancies, until the realities of fact have ceased to charm, or to excite even a temporary interest, eventually, those who might have extended the boundaries of knowledge & augmented the usefulness of our

science, have expended their best efforts in endeavouring to subject all nature to their own preconceptions. Hence ensued the innumerable hosts of theories & systems, which so long attracted the admiration & wasted the time of students of medicine; many of these theories consecrated by the force of talent which gave them birth, rest quietly beneath splendid monuments which their founders erected to their memory; a far larger number of humbler fortune, have sunk into well merited oblivion, or occasionally flit around their former abodes, the melancholy memorials of time mispent & industry unavailingly exercised.

Speculative as all opinions must now be received, in relation to the first origin of medical science, it would be time mispent to take up their consideration; we must, however, believe with Celsus, that in all ages it existed in some form, howsoever rude & insufficient this may have been. Its respectability is as universal as the benefits it is capable of conferring, when rightly administered: those engaged in the discharge of its duties having always been tacitly considered by their fellow-men, as beings peculiarly set apart from the

rest of mankind, & worthy of an estimation, not conceded to persons employed in merely secular affairs.[A]

Great doubt & uncertainty mark our progress through the earlier periods of Egyptian & Grecian history, & we find ourselves bewildered in a motley crowd of Apises & Osirises, of Thouths, of Taauts, & Serapises, of Orpheuses, Apollos, & Esculapiuses, whom we are at a loss to distinguish from each other, & who bear so little similitude to substantial personages, that we seem to be traversing the land of dreams & the regions of romance, rather than those of actual history & real events. It is not till we approach the confines of Christianity that the darkness begins to lessen in intensity, the outlines of objects faintly to appear, & probability to occupy the place of doubt & delusion.

Few are the accounts of the articles employed in the temples of Esculapius, which have reached the present period: what we know of them is mainly derived from the writings of Hippocrates, or of those that are ascribed to him. These are however too uncertain for us to place any firm reliance on, for many of them as we now have them, are

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regarded as the works of different persons, & of different ages; hence it becomes impossible to judge with accuracy, what was the real state of the Materia Medica, during the period the "Father of Physic," flourished. Confined almost to the vegetable kingdom, the want of botanical knowledge, has rendered what little has reached us in this particular, obscure & uncertain. B.

Hippocrates, born about 450 years before Christ, was a native of Cos; & is reputed the 18th descendant in a direct line from Esculapius. He was contemporary with Socrates, Herodotus, & Thucydides, in the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus of Persia. His father & godfather were both eminent physicians, a point, it is true, of small importance, since a son of excellence & worth, reflects a glory upon, instead of receiving any from his father. Possessed of means so favorable to the acquirements of medicine, we are not to wonder at his early predilection for its pursuit, or for his future assiduous & ardent devotion to it. Travelling through Greece, Thessaly & Thrace, he obtained a knowledge of Epidemic diseases, & notwithstanding these travels were pursued unquestionably with a view to information in

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his favorite branch, they have been ascribed to a less honorable motive. It has been said he absented himself, in order to escape the punishment due to some larcenies which he had committed in the medical school of Cnidus, where he is stated to have transcribed some of the books, & then burned the originals. Others say he fled, because he had copied some inscriptions in the temple of Escu-lapius, detailing the cures of sick persons, who thus recorded their gratitude to that deity. But who can credit these aspersions of "erring-judging men," on a man, whose whole conduct appears to have been governed by the highest & noblest sentiments - of a man, who refused the splendid offers of Artaxerces to induce him to enter into his service during a direful epidemic, whilst his own country might require his attention - & who, by the esteem in which he was held by the Athenians, of himself, in a great measure, averted the intention of that people, to invade his native country. They even on more than one occasion, voted him a Crown of Gold, & initiated him in their great religious mysteries, - a favor granted to very few strangers.

The honor in which he was

held, both during his life & after his death, was very great; it will be just to mention that he lived to see his doctrines universally received, & was, with few exceptions, the only person that ever had that happiness. The people of Argos erected a statue of gold to him. Plato & Aristotle looked up to him as a master, & his works have been ever held in high esteem. Hippocrates was the first author who applied philosophical reasoning to medicine. The Sect of the Dogmatists therefore looked up to him as their head; but unlike many writers of a later period, he did not cultivate theory to the exclusion of observation & experience, for his writings evince him to have been one of the most accurate observers that any age has produced.

Not long after this great man, Aristotle & Theophrastes, laid the foundation of Natural history, thus paving the way for improvements in the Materia Medica. Said improvements however, were not carried very far—a want of the means of accurately distinguishing substances from each other, prevented this branch from emerging from

out the confusion in which it was concealed.

Aristotle, though no physician, yet cultivating as he did the history of Nature in a manner before unknown undoubtedly deserves a slight notice here. Born about 385 years before our Saviour, at Stagira in Thrace, hence he is often styled the "Staggrite", & the "Philosopher of Stagyra"; he became the founder of the Sect denominated "Peripatetics". His father was physician to the King of Macedon, & he himself became the friend of Philip & of Alexander his son, who was committed to his care to instruct him in all the branches of knowledge then taught. How well he succeeded may be learned from Alexander himself, who at a very early period avowed his conviction, that to the philosopher he was indebted for greater obligations, than even those which he owed to his father—from the one he derived his life & the inheritance of a Throne, & from the other he received that intellectual nurture which sweetens existence & raises human nature to the noblest elevation. This tribute of a mind so ardent as that of Alexander, to the superiority of philosophy, is equally honorable

both to himself, & to his famous preceptor; & should act on every ingenuous mind, as a potent incentive to its pursuits.

For nearly 8 years did this accomplished Prince pursue his studies under Aristotle — a period beyond dispute, the happiest of his life, but long as this period may seem, it is trifling in extent to that, which Aristotle himself pursued; at the age of 17 he was placed under the care of Plato the friend & disciple of Socrates, who in the sublime language of the divine Milton, "———— lives now

Equal in fame to proudest conquerours." P.R. 3. 98.

Under him he studied nearly 20 years, — where now shall we look for the student at the age of 37?

When Alexander bent his steps to Asia, to pursue the dictates of his ambition, Aristotle at the age of 50 retired to the calm pursuits of philosophy at Athens. Here, establishing himself in the Lyceum, he delivered his lectures to crowded auditors, whilst walking in the shades of that delightful retreat. Here it was, that he & his disciples gained the name of Peripatetics. Accused at length, after the death

of his protector Alexander, of impiety, he, according to most accounts, died at Athens, 322 years B.C., aged 63. His valuable Library & all his own writings, he bequeathed to his disciple, Theophrastes, from him, these treasures passed to one of his scholars, who unfortunately allowed it to fall into the hands of his illiterate heirs, who, that they might not be plundered of a property, the value of which they did not know, deposited them in a subterraneous vault, where they are said to have remained concealed 130 years, during which period they sustained great injury from vermin & damp, so that finally, of more than 400 treatises which he had written, according to Diogenes Laertius, no more than 48, admitted as authentic, have reached our times.

"Fronti nulla fides", is a well known adage, & it appears, extremely appropriate to the character I am noticing. His personal appearance was no way prepossessing. Diminutive in stature, & puny in his limbs, he had very small eyes, a squeaking voice, & a disagreable hesitation in his speech. Such was the man, whose

reputation has withstood the reefs, whirlpools, & quicksands of 2000 years. His writings have proved to him, glorious architect, "a monument more durable than brass," setting him above princes, & delivering his thoughts, & words, & deeds, from the outer darkness of oblivion.

With all that can be said against him, he has never been surpassed in keenness of observation, & versatility of genius. His mind's largeness was all his own— & the glance with which he surveyed the intellectual universe resembled that which the archangel, from the golden threshold of heaven, darted down into the new creation.

"Round he surveyed, (& well might, where he stood
So high above the circling canopy
Of night's extended shade,) from eastern point
Of Libra to the fleecy star that bears
Andromeda far off Atlantic seas
Beyond the horizon." P.L. 3. 555.

Nor can I refuse my estimation of the man who dictated the universally admired sentiment, "the fame of Socrates

is dear to me; but Truth is dearer than all other names."

With the general writings of this great man, I have nothing to do: but in Natural history closely as it is allied to medicine, we must not forget our obligations to him. In this, it is scarcely possible to bestow sufficient commendation on the diligence, fidelity, & accuracy which he has evinced. His history of animals, which the munificence of Alexander enabled him to complete at an enormous expense, contains a vast variety of valuable observations, & has tended more than any other work to facilitate the labours of later Zoologists.

Of Theophrastus, I have little to say. Successively the disciple of Plato & of Aristotle, he succeded the latter in the Peripatetic school, & with such reputation, that he is said to have had about 2000 scholars. Celebrated for his industry, learning & eloquence, as well as for his generosity & public spirit, he is said to have twice freed his country from the oppression of tyrants. He wrote many valuable works, of which all that remain, are several treatises on the natural history of plants & fossils, of wind & of

fire &c: & to him we are indebted for preserving the works of Aristotle.

For a long period after the age of Hippocrates, we have scarcely any writings of the Greek physicians, of determined date, by which we can estimate the progress of the Materia Medica amongst them. Although no writings, if any were made, have reached us, we cannot doubt but that constant endeavors were made to improve it, by finding out & increasing the number of efficient remedies.

Erasistratus however at this period, seems to have employed but few medicines, & only those of the milder kind; he has also declared against the use of bleeding, & of compound medicines. It is this physician, of whom Appian relates that by his sagacity, he discovered from the pulse the disease of Antiochus the son of Seluscus, who was in love with Stratonice his mother in law; a similar story is told however, of Avicenna & of Galen, & probably of other physicians. He is

stated to have received from Seleucus 100 talents as a reward for the cure. Great as the sum is, it is not at all improbable that our modern practitioners would obtain a greater, could they devise means of breaking through the matrimonial bonds of many fashionable couples.

If Erasistratus did little to advance the Materia Medica, others were not wanting to favor its advancement. Herophilus, who must be familiar to us all as having given a name to a part of the human body — was nearly contemporary with Erasistratus, & so numerous were his discoveries in Anatomy, & so highly was he esteemed, particularly by Fallopius, whose name must be equally familiar to us, that this last named physician speaking of him says, "contradicere Hierophilo in anatomicis, est contradicere Evangelio." And what particularly marks the candid character of Fallopius, is, that he frankly attributes to Herophilus the discovery of the tubes which go by his own name. Pursuing his anatomical researches in Alexandria, he is said to have dissected not less than 500 bodies — & some have

ventured to affirm, that he did not confine his dissections to the dead alone, but be this as it may, Herophilus employed himself much in the quest of remedies, & gave so much encouragement to this pursuit, as to render it probable that he became the founder of the sect called Empirics, which sprang up about that time, although the honor of originating that sect has been given more generally to Serapion a physician of Alexandria. They both were students of Herophilus, & lived about 200 years before our Saviour. But what their particular discoveries were in the Materia Medica, ~~are~~ is not precisely stated; Serapion however, speaks of Senna, Hellebore, the Armenian stone, & some others.

It is not known with any certainty how much the sect of Empirics contributed to the advancement of medicine. Heraclides of Tarentum, one of the sect, wrote some treatises concerning the rules & method of compounding medicines, & he is reported to have been a person of considerable judgment & diligence in the study of the Materia

Medica; none of his writings, nor of others of the sect have reached our times, by which an estimate might be made of their value. Which seems to prove that it could not have been very great, since if any discoveries or improvements of consequence had been made by them, the presumption is, that such would have been adopted & preserved by cotemperary sects.

The scheme pursued by the Empirics is undoubtedly specious, but the accomplishment of it, in its fullest degree, would necessarily require ages; & it is not therefore to be wondered at, that finding it incomplete & imperfect, practitioners should readily desert it, & seek for assistance which the other places of physic held up to view. It is certain that much advantage may be derived from perusing ~~the~~ the old writers. For as Hazlitt has said, "by conversing with the mighty dead, we imbibe sentiment with knowledge. We become strongly attached to those who can no longer either hurt or serve us, except through the influence which they exert over the mind. We feel the presence of that power which gives immortality to human thoughts & actions, &

catch the flame of enthusiasm from all nations & ages."
A thorough acquaintance with the writings of those
"Giants of mighty bone & bold emprise,"
paved the way considerably for the great celebrity & attainments of Boerhave, Haller, Sydenham, Cullen, & Hahneman, & most of our principal & esteemed authorities. C.

Every physician will make, & assuredly ought to make observations from his own experience; but is it to be presumed that they will be the less just, by a joint comparison with what he reads & sees? By searching into, & examining the opinions & methods of those who have preceded him, the student's understanding is usefully employed & improved, enabling him to see how the merely hypothetical or conjectural theories, that have been advanced at different times have resulted from mistaken facts, & imperfect observations; having no alliance with nature or truth, & as a matter of course leading to wrong & dangerous practice, causing "the patients frequently to suffer more by the doctor than by the disease." We are not compelled implicitly to receive the notions of others, further than we find them agreeable to

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reason, & reducible to practice! The student need not therefore be apprehensive of having his genius fettered, perplexed or misled in endeavoring to estimate the real value of the works he peruses; & indeed there is more presumption than good sense, in any one, even of the longest experience, thinking that nothing new or worthy of notice, can be found in the writings of former ages. Those great lights which shine like a mighty sea-mark into the abyss of time, are still green, & stand triumphantly—

"Above the reach of sacrilegious hands;
Secure from flames, from envy's fiercer rage,
Destructive war, & all-involving age."

Teaching us to prefer fame to life, & glory to riches; & to fix our thoughts on the remote & permanent, instead of narrow & fleeting objects. They teach us to believe that there is something really great & excellent in the world, surviving all the shocks of accident & fluctuations of opinion, & raise us above that low & servile fear, which bows only to present power & upstart authority!

The fact is, that many of the presumed novelties of the present day, in medical writers, are generally little else than shreds, & rifaccimentos of what has been served up entire & in a more natural state at other times; copied from them without an acknowledgment, & puffed into notice as new with the pleasing consideration of the difficulty of detection, from the little acquaintance which is now had with those venerable remains of antiquity. "For my own part" says Dr. Friend, "I don't see how any honest man can satisfy his own mind in such a superficial knowledge as to be gathered barely from a few modern systems, or think himself sufficiently qualified to sit upon life or death (for that is the case) by only consulting 2 or 3 Dispensatories, or perusing as many Apothecaries files, or even in spending a few months in an Hospital." Free thinking carried beyond its proper bounds, has done as much mischief in physic as in divinity. No one it is true, ought implicitly to adopt another's opinions, merely on account of his name, whether ancient or modern; but a long established reputation is ample reason for not entirely neglecting those

authors who were regarded as the lights of antiquity. Can it be credited that the writings of Hippocrates, Galen &, many others of acknowledged worth, should contain nothing worthy of examination from the fountain head, when such universal defference was paid to them through the uninterrupted succession of many centuries? Is it possible that all knowledge is confined to our own times, or that men of equal talents, & as large experience, have never previously had existence? Where is the man who is even now, too wise to be taught? Is not the very first aphorism of the "Father of Physic" admitted to be correct, but do not the concise methods of present study seem to reverse it?

Experience is beyond a doubt the greatest help to knowledge, & no sensible person will attempt to undervalue its advantages; but can it be denied that the word is often employed, where the effects do not so plainly appear? A man may practice all his life, & be no wiser from his experience, if he neglects to make those

proper observations which his experience might suggest. He however who confines himself solely to his own contracted notions, can never hope to attain that solid information which is to be derived from a conjunction of his own experience with that of others. Were this not the fact it follows that the oldest practitioner would always be the best physician & the old nurse would rank before the most accomplished doctor, whose experience was not equal to her own.

But to proceed in my subject from this unexpected digression. Slow as the progress of the Materia Medica appears to have been amongst the Greeks, it was to be expected that much improvement in it might have been derived from the establishment of Physic amongst the Romans, yet what was done, seems rather the work of the Greek physicians resident at Rome, than of the Romans themselves. Cato the Censor has given an incantation for the reduction of a luxation, & the general means employed in the cure of disease, which sufficiently shows the paucity of this branch of medical science amongst them. It may

be mentioned here, that Coleworts were highly praised for their medicinal powers by Cato: & that the urine of those who had fed on them, was employed very considerably as an external application. The plant was not however here introduced for the first time, for Pliny affirms it to have been in use by Hippocrates & Erasistratus;— according to the Greeks it prevented drunkenness & sobered an intoxicated man. It was reputed good for the sight, & for palsy. Hippocrates recommends it in the bloody flux, & considers that women in childbed shall become good nurses, & have plenty of milk if they eat of Cabbage or Coleworts— making it possessed of infinitely greater powers than the celebrated Ergot of the present day, for if "chewed raw, it is of force to expel a dead infant in the womb." It is good against poison, gout, epilepsy, yellow jaundice and phrenzy; much more is said of its efficacy, which is needless to repeat; Pliny says— "Lo! what a number of praise-worthy virtues are recommended of Coleworts! And is there (I pray you) no fault to be found with them? Are they blameless? I answer, no, for even those writers who extolled them so

highly, note them for making a stinking breath, & for hurting the teeth & gums. Insomuch, as in Egypt, they be in so bad a name for their bitterness & unpleasant taste, that no man knoweth how to eat them."

Aselepiades was one of the first of the Greek physicians, who obtained celebrity at Rome—yet not having originally been devoted to the profession, his practice was timid, & a very small number of articles comprised the list of his Materia Medica. Aselepiades lived about a century before the Christian era, & began his career at Rome, as a teacher of Rhetoric. Pursuing the medical profession as a more lucrative, he chalked out a new line of practice, & discarded purgatives & emetics as destructive to the stomach; professing to cure his patients, tuto, cito, & jucunde. His fame however was so extended, that he was invited to the court of Mithridates, King of Pontus, but his success at Rome, induced him to reject the invitation.

The account which Pliny gives of this physician is highly humorous—"This one thing," says he "we that are Romans may well be ashamed of,

& take in great indignation, that such an old fellow as he, coming out of Greece, (the vainest nation under the Sun) & beginning as he did of nothing, should only (for to enrich himself) lead the whole world in a string, & on a sudden set down rules & orders for the health of mankind, notwithstanding many that came after him, repealed as it were, & annulled those laws of his." From the great difficulty of comprehending the subtleties of his doctrines, resulted soon after, the establishment of the sect of Methodists who confined their plan of treatment to a few general indications only—a plan by no means suited to enlarge the field of the Materia Medica. Galen strenuously opposed this sect in his writings, and asserted that the Methodical heresy ruined every thing that was good in the art.

A. Cornelius Celsus, the only native Roman who ever became distinguished in physic, appeared about this time, viz., towards the latter part of the reign of Augustus,—but whether he practiced physic as an art, or pursued it simply as an amateur, is not conclusively settled. His works however bear ample testimony to his merits & few writers rank higher in estimation,

even now, than he does. Much more is given in relation to the Materia Medica by him, than by any preceding writer, but such uncertainty exists in respect to the names he employs, that we cannot positively decide as to many of the articles he enumerates. He is by many considered as the best commentator of Hippocrates of any writer who has reached us, & for the great purity & elegance of his style, is even ranked amongst the first writers of the Augustan age. Amongst the numerous objects of his inquiries, was the study of poisons & their antidotes,—a subject of research long before his time, but which much engaged him, & all the after writers of the Materia Medica, not only amongst the ancients, but of the moderns likewise. One of the most celebrated of these supposed antidotes, was the Theriaca androm & the Mithridate, an electary ascribed to Mithridates King of Pontus, & esteemed both as a remedy & as a preservative against poison.

This Monarch is said to have so fortified his body against poisons, by its use, that when he wished to destroy himself, he could find no poison that would take effect. The receipt of it was found in his cabinet, written with his own hand, & was carried

to Rome by his conqueror, Pompey. This preparation, consisting of 62 ingredients, continued in use for nearly 2000 years, & on the continent of Europe is scarcely yet extinct; & may serve as a compend of the ancient Materia Medica, for hardly an article then used in medicine, had escaped a location in it. In it we find mention of Myrrh, Saffron, Ginger, Cinnamon, Spikenard, Frankincense, Oil of Nutmegs, Calamus, Galbanum, Turpentine, Castor, Pepper, Storax, Mace, Cassia, Wild Carrot, Cubebs, Gum Arabic, Parsley, Opium, Cardamoun seed, Gentian, Aniseed, Red Roses, Fennel seed, Orris, Valerian, & many more: that such a heterogeneous compound should have so long maintained its place as an officinal capital—even under the auspices of the Colleges of Europe, is a disgraceful momento of human weakness & credulity!

To read its virtues recorded in the old Dispensatories, it would be presumed that death could find no shape in which to visit mankind. As a curosity alone, I shall insert here what Salmon says respecting its virtues, in his

"New-London Dispensatory" printed 1702. At page 658 under the head of "Electuaries," he uses the following language in praise of it. "It is as well a Cure as a Preservative from the Plague, & all pestilential & infectious Diseases; it preserves health, represses Melancholy, causes Chearfulness, Cures the bitings or stingings of any poisonous Creature, expels Poison, cures the Vertigo, Epilepsie, Apoplexy, Palsie, Trembling, deprivation of the Senses, Frenzy, Madness, want of Sleep & Rest, Inveterate pains of the Head, Megrim, Soda, Coughs, Colds, Asthma's, difficulty of Breathing, spitting Blood, bleeding (given with Poppy-water) Palpitation, Swooning, & other Passions & Distempers of the Heart, sickness of the Stomach, Wind, want of Appetite & Indigestion. It eases the Cholick & Illiack Passion immediately, & all other pains, is profitable against Psora, Scabs, Leprosie, & Elephantiasis, cures a Diarrhoea, Dysenteria, & Lienteria, the Flux of the Terms & Whites in Women. It is good against the Stone & Gravel, whether in the Reins or Bladder, gives present ease, provokes Urine, & takes away the heat & sharpness thereof, cures the Dysuria, Ischuria, & Stranguria, helps Ulcers of the Bladder, strengthens the Genitals, provokes Lust,

& strangely helps such as have Cancers, Gouts, Sciatica's, Quartans, & other Chronick Diseases, from Cold & Melancholy humors. It is also very powerful in many affects of the Womb. It cures Weakness, Pleurisies, & such as languish in Hecticks, Consumptions, Poison, & the most intolerable pains. Dose à ℈i. ad ℥ii. in a vehicle, proper to the Disease you intend it for. Otherwise in general give it at night in a glass of Rhenish Wine, Alicant, Tent or Canary."

Nevertheless, if what Pliny relates of Mithridates is correct, the medical world at that period was under great obligations to him. He tells us that he was well known unto the world, by good proof & evident arguments, to have been of all others before his time, a prince most addicted to the public benefit of men — that he devoted himself most earnestly to the study of physic, & because he would be exquisite & singular therein, he had intelligencers from all parts of his dominions, (& those took up no small part of the whole world,) who, upon their knowledge, exhibited to him the particular nature & properties of every simple.

Amongst the writers on the

Materia Medica, Scribonius Largus should be mentioned— a physician nearly contemporary with Celsus—who expressly treats of the composition of medicines. His nomenclature of the articles of the Materia Medica, is equally uncertain with that of Celsus, & from the same abundance of external remedies being mentioned by both, it is presumable that they constituted a large share in the practice of the times. Throughout the writings of this period, the same study of poisons & their antidotes, & the same luxuriancy of composition in medicines, appear, nor indeed until lately can this be said to have abated. We are informed that even in his time, the same ungenerous selfishness of keeping medicines secret, prevailed,—as since,—to the disgrace of the profession, & that these secret medicines were extolled, in a quackish manner, as universal remedies!

In the reign of Vespasian, or near that time lived the celebrated Dioscorides, who wrote particularly with a view to illustrate the medical virtues of plants. He made several extensive journies through diffrent parts of Asia, & spared

no pains to become acquainted with the names & virtues of all the plants then known. He published an account of 600, arranged from their qualities into 4 classes of aromatic, vinous, medicinal, & alimetary vegetables. Galen commends him as one of the best & most complete writers on the Materia Medica; & he has ever since been regarded as the principal & classic writer upon it. His descriptions are imperfect, & the names have since been so changed, as to render it uncertain of what he treats, so we are thereby unable to judge how far the virtues ascribed to them are well founded. The same visionary ideas pervade his writings of substances possessing the powers of resisting poisons, & even of curing the bite of mad dogs — of medicines dissolving calculous concretions of the bladder, & for moderating the venereal appetite in males, & for preventing the conception of females, of others preventing the birth of children — expelling the secundines & dead children, & for making blackeyed children. These were the faults of the age, rather than of Dioscorides. But it may admit of a question, if in many of these respects, the present age does not rival Dioscorides, who with all his faults, we must

yet consider as a man of superior acquirements.

Few towns have contributed more largely to the reputation of Roman literature, or have been more fertile in the production of genius, taste, & knowledge, than Verona. Among the rest of the illustrious writers to whom it gave birth, Caius Plinius Secundus; surnamed Pliny the Elder, shone as a star of the first magnitude, diffusing lustre & brightness around the place of his nativity. He was descended from a noble family, & born in the year A.D. 23. He was courted & admired by the Emperors Vespasian & Titus, both of whom cultivated his acquaintance, & honoured him with their intimacy & friendship. He was not only an accomplished scholar, an illustrious philosopher, & an indefatigable naturalist, but a gallant soldier & an enlightened politician, equally conspicuous in the camp & in the cabinet.

Although his life was comparatively short (for he died at the age of fifty-six,) & although he was constantly occupied with the duties of his important & public situations, he was a very voluminous writer; & when I consider that he

was incessantly engaged in some active service of the state, I am astonished at the industry which enabled him to compose so many volumes on such diversified & abstruse subjects. Of all his multifarious productions, however, none but his "Natural History," in thirty-seven books, have been handed down to us: but this presents a lasting proof of the accuracy & diligence of its learned author, of the extent of his investigations, & the comprehensiveness of his genius. It treats of the earth, the stars, the heavens; wind, rain, hail; minerals, trees, flowers, & plants; birds, beasts, & fishes; medicines, commerce, & navigation; & contains also a description of every place on the globe, then discovered; a history of the rise & progress of the liberal & mechanical arts; & of the origin of customs[D]: in short, so extensive & diversified is the information it comprises, that the name of an Universal Encyclopædia may be not unaptly bestowed upon it. Pliny is happy in his descriptions as a naturalist; he writes with force & energy; & although it must be acknowledged that his conjectures & ideas are occasionally unfounded, yet he possesses that fertility of imagination &

See Appendix. D.

vivacity of expression, which are requisite to treat a subject with propriety; & to render a history of nature pleasing, interesting, &, above all, instructive; & his admirable work, although as variegated in appearance as nature itself, always depicts her in her most engaging attire, & is calculated to impart at once information & delight.

The death of this profound & indefatigable scholar was occasioned by a catastrophe which, as it involved at the same time a most beautiful country in ruin & devastation, & buried the populous cities of Herculaneum & Pompeii in a vast ocean of fire, from which they were not discovered again till the long period of one thousand six hundred & thirty-four years had elapsed, it is necessarily fraught with peculiar interest. The account of it is recorded in a pathetic & animated manner, by his nephew & namesake, Pliny the Younger, in a letter to his friend Tacitus.

Claudius Galenus, one of the most illustrious fathers of our art appeared not long after Pliny. He was one of the most celebrated physicians of antiquity, & his

opinions long maintained an unbounded sway over the medical world. He was born about 103 years after Christ, in Pergamus, a city of Asia minor, & flourished during the successive reigns of several of the Roman emperors. To speak of his studies, would be to pursue him through all the range of the existing arts & sciences. He acquired the Stoic & Epicurean philosophy, the latter of which he rejected & opposed. His early pursuits had no view to the cultivation of medicine, but to this he was led in his 17th year, by a superstitious regard to a dream of his father. His studies were pursued at Smyrna, & at Rome, in which latter place, he attended the teachers of the 3 sects in medicine, the Rational or Dogmatic, the Methodic & the Empiric; maintaining an uniform respect & attachment to his preceptors, but reposing in none, a blind admiration & implicit confidence — taking nothing on report, which he could not himself verify; he travelled for the express purpose of seeing the diffrent articles of the Materia Medica in their native country, nor did he return to Pergamus to engage in practice until 28 years of age. His great success & high remunerations excited the envy & hostility of his competitors,

especially among the Methodists, who were then in much credit, & whom he opposed. They represented this success in practice, & his accurate predictions as the effect of accident, & as depending on the arts of magic. So greatly was he persecuted, that he returned to Pergamus, but was induced shortly to again reside in Rome, under the auspices of M. Aurelius.

To Galen was confided the compounding of the famous Theriaca, an honor only given to the first physician. He has been greatly celebrated for his fortitude, inflexible justice & piety, & one writer affirms that he died on his way to Judea, on a journey he was led to undertake, by the publicity of the christian miracles. He wrote several treatises that have not reached us, 500 on medicine are ascribed to him & half the number on other subjects.

Independent as he himself was as to the opinions of others, he forged a chain which held in bondage the medical world for nearly 15 centuries. To enter into any of his doctrines, would here be improper. It is only necessary to add, that notwithstanding the prolixity, incongruities, &

erroneous opinions he maintains, ~~much~~ very much useful matter is to be found, which makes it far more than an object of curiosity to consult his writings. His views of the Materia Medica if not correct, were at least novel, & as well sustained as any of a later day; although he is equally prone to attribute virtues to the different articles, with his predecessors, which are now entirely rejected. Nor is he less superstitious than they were, in regard to amulets & charms — a remnant of the same absurd & ridiculous credulity, the offspring of ignorance & want of reflection, I am sorry to say, still continues to hold dominion over the minds of the illiterate & vulgar part of the community in this, as well as in other countries. As he left it, such, in a great measure, may be considered the state of the Materia Medica till the middle of the 17th, century, & even at a far later period, vestiges of his remains are to be found in our medical writers.

In regard to this superstitious belief in amulets & charms, it will not do to be too severe upon the ancients. For it is well known we in this country are not behind other parts of the globe in a firm belief in the efficacy of snake stones &c;—

a paper on this subject by Dr. James Mease, of a highly interesting character is to be found in the 5th vol. p. 1., of the Philadelphia Medical Museum, for the year 1808: in which it appears, that such a stone was proposed for sale by one Mr. Micow in Virginia, at the moderate price of two thousand dollars, in shares of ten dollars each! The writer says that, "the people of Naples do not more firmly believe in the miraculous liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius, than do many of the good people of Virginia, with respect to the infallibility of the snake stone. It will scarcely be credited at a future day, when numerous failures of the now famous remedy shall have taken place, that the proposed number of shares was filled up in a few weeks; & that, after a meeting of the subscribers for the purpose, the stone was deposited in the hands of Dr. Brockenbrough, of Tappahannock, as a central spot, whence it might be most readily obtained, when desired by any of them. Mr. Micow no doubt feels very snug at the receipt of 2000 dollars; & the worthy stockholders are quite secure from even the apprehension

of danger from all the attacks of rattle-snakes or mad dogs in their counties!!"

I have said as yet, nothing of the Arabian writers; deriving their knowledge of the Materia Medica principally from Greece, they added little to it, except some articles of a milder kind, in place of the more violent purgatives then in use. Nor does it appear that they made any improvements in the general plan of the Materia Medica, or in ascertaining the virtues of particular medicines.

To them however, is generally conceded the palm of introducing Chemistry into the operations of pharmacy. It is nevertheless true, what they did in this respect was comparatively of little consequence, but it paved the way for farther improvements, when medicine revived in the western parts of Europe. About the middle of the 15th century, the Capture of Constantinople by the Saracens or Turks, compelled many learned Greeks to fly to Italy, who brought with them, & diffused through Europe, that information

of which it had so long been deprived.

Becoming thus acquainted with the writings of the Greeks, the physicians perceived the source from whence the Arabians had derived their knowledge, & consequently were led to study the original writers. Controversies necessarily accurred between those who still adhered to the Arabians, which continued for a considerable time, but finally ended in the complete neglect of the Arabian writers. Little was effected in the Materia Medica, which, as left by Galen, was adopted by both parties, with scarce an alteration — & with but slight additions as to the number of articles handed down by him.

Here we have an instance of the force of education, - acquiring information, before our judgment can enable us to detect the errors of our teachers; we often too implicitly receive their doctines as correct, & seldom afterwards are at the trouble to emancipate ourselves from the shackles with which we have been encircled. The prejudices of education are the strongest enemies to innovation & improvement, & no sentiment is more worthy of

the ingenuous mind, than that, which teaches

This is the golden rule, which all should remember. The fate of this long established system of Galen, should operate on the preceptor, to be cautious as to his opinions, & not advance them with an assurance which scarcely truth can sanction, whilst the alternate fall of each successive theory points out to him as conspicuously as the hand writing on the wall, the fate which most probably awaits his favorite doctrines, & that, so far from surviving the lengthened period of Galinical opinions, they may even topple during his own existence, or vanish before a more enlightened philosophy "like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a wreck behind".

If, as I have already said, Chemistry first took its rise amongst the Arabian physicians, & was by them implanted within the pales of medicine, a still higher honor now awaites it, viz., that of overthrowing the system of Galen, which like a snow ball continually had increased in strength, as it rolled along the unexampled period of 15 centuries. Already had the Arabians given to the medical world, one of the most powerful medicines of the Materia Medica. Rhazes one of the most

conspicuous of the Arabian school had mentioned Sublimate of Mercury, & the celebrated Valentine presented another not less important in the preparation of Antimony. However misemployed now & in the early periods of the discovery, they still remain, as monuments of the high importance of Chemistry, & had we never obtained from this source another preparation, these would have been sufficient to establish its undoubted claim to be considered as an essential branch of medical study!

That Chemistry in its first advances was tainted with the errors of Alchemy is no objection to its merits, even as then existing; perhaps it required the ardent pursuits after the ignis-fatuus of a philosophers stone or an elixir of immortality to rouse the slumbering & torpid faculties of men so long bound down in servile submissive subservience to the reigning systems.— What passion more likely than avarice, to inspire a systematic opposition to opinions which held out no lure to awaken cupidity? Bad as was perhaps the motive, the best results have arisen from it. Like the origin of revolutions of almost every description, the public good is rarely

the moving spring of the primary actors – or some private motive of an ignoble nature, may for the most part be discovered, by dispassionate observers, to be the source of all those changes which in every age have astonished the world, both in Religion & politics, & which have in the circumvolutions of the wheel of time, unfolded to view the most brilliant events, & the most unlooked for virtues.

Thus has it been with Chemistry, originating in the wild desire of accumulating wealth, by means before unknown; the alchemist vainly hoped by torturing the metals, to obtain a means by which he could at all times change to gold, the less valuable objects of creation, little suspecting that his selfish labours were unfolding a mine whose boundless wealth should only terminate with creation itself. Rough & painful as were the first exertions in this mine, & ruinous to the projector, its ample sources now give support to half the civilized world; amidst the unintentional benefits there conferred by it on man; medicine possesses a due proportion, & each day elicits some useful addition to the healing art, & even

the simples of the Galenical school, have in many instances been benefitted by the researches of Chemistry. Whilst then, we blame the sordid motives, which first gave impulse to its progress, let us gratefully acknowledge the advantages we all derive from this most noble & extensive science, which like our own most glorious revolution, has given an impulse that knows no bounds.

Amongst the foremost opponents of the Galinical school, the celebrated Aureolus Philippus Theophrastus Bombastus Paracelsus de Hohenheim, stands pre-eminent. "He was born" says in his notes to Cullen's First Lines of the Practice of Physic, "at the village of Einsidlin, about 2 German miles from Zurick, in the year 1493. At 3 years old he was made an eunuch by an accident. He travelled all over the continent of Europe, obtaining knowledge in chemistry & physic, & then travelled about the country practising what he had learned. His chief remedies were opium & mercury, & his great success increased his celebrity. He cured the famous printer Frobenius of Basil of an inveterate disease; this cure brought him

acquainted with Erasmus, & made him known to the magistracy of Basil, who elected him Professor in 1527. He lectured two hours every day. While seated in his chair he burnt, with great solemnity, the writings of Galen & Avicenna; & declared to his audience, that if God would not impart the secrets of physic, it was not only allowable, but even justifiable to consult the devil. He soon left Basil, & continued rambling about the country, generally intoxicated, & never changing his clothes, or even going to bed. He died after an illness of a few days, in an inn at Saltsburg, in 1541, in his forty-eighth year, though he had promised himself that, by the use of his elixir, he should live to the age of Methusalem".

For a century after the time of this extraordinary character, the physicians of Europe were divided into the sects of Galenists & Chemists — the latter of little erudition in general compared with their opponents, still the Chemists, by the efficacy of their medicines, & by their bold & energetic practice, gradually gained upon the public confidence. The opposition of the Galenic school, was levelled at the powerful weapons

by which the Chemists supported the contest, & although even in some places the secular authority was arrayed to oppress them, the public had become too enlightened to be long controlled in what concerned their vital interest. As might therefore have been expected, the Galenists were finally routed, & their opponents every where took the lead in medicine. In Germany especially, scarcely a Sovereign Court existed, in which an alchemist & a Chemical physician was not retained, & with such powerful supports, the Galenists were compelled to combat death with the arms of their antagonists. Although both in France & England, many years elapsed, before their controversies were finally settled, yet the establishment of Sir Theodore Mayerne a Chemical practitioner as chief physician to the King of England, early in the 17th century, & the edicts against the use of Antimony, by the faculty of Paris, put an end to further dispute, & there was thereafter, scarcely any distinction to be found between the Galenists & Chemists.

It is not to be expected however, that these events could take place, without occasioning a very great change

in the state of the Materia Medica. Medicines from the mineral kingdom, most of them altogether unknown to the ancients, now constituted a far larger part of it than formerly. Many of them were injudicious, & were employed without due discrimination, but the virtues ascribed to them were given in the writings on the Materia Medica, & even to this day are repeated as being derived from experience, which in many instances has had infact, very little to do with them.

This modification of the Materia Medica was accompanied by every description of fanaticism; & is a just illustration of the tendency of the human mind to bid farewell to reason when it deals with the supposed supernatural, — pretending to discover medicines capable of prolonging life! All such cases of medical delusion illustrate the same philosophy, & teach the same lesson. They exhibit the might of imagination, & warn us against the danger of leaving our reason behind us when we visit the vast & shadowy realms of the supernatural.

Yet absurd as were the doctrines of Chemistry, they promised more than any other

to explain that quality of medicines on which their virtues depended, & have accordingly been more or less applied to that purpose since that period. Of the different opinions the Chemists introduced, of acid & alkali, as the first step to a regular system, & which long continued to have a considerable share in medical doctrines, I shall say nothing farther than that, as by it, all diseases were referred to such principles supposed to prevail in the human body, so the remedies for them were arranged under the names of antacids & antalkalines. It was also supposed that the virtues of medicines were strictly connected with their sensible qualities of colour, taste & smell, & a knowledge of their medical virtues was thought to be acquired by attention to those; but all attempts to build up a system on those particulars, have had but little success—nor in fact can any conclusions founded on such schemes for investigating the virtues of medicines, be trusted, that are not confirmed by experience; which, although it is often fallacious is the only test on which we can proceed.

Much has been written by

Boyle & others on the subject of specific medicines, or of such whose virtues are only to be learned from experience; Boyle has given us a collection of remedies, drawn from diffrent sources, which he supposed to be of this kind, but whether from his great credulity or from whatever other cause it has arisen, his collection has contributed very little to improve the knowledge of the Materia Medica.

Soon after this, when it was perceived that the mere chemical analysis of substance by fire, contributed nothing towards discovering the constituent parts in which their medicinal properties were seated; another plan was pursued, that of employing aqueous or spiritious means & obtaining the soluble parts as extracts, but except that we have thereby learned that some articles are better dissolved by one species of liquor than another, or that the virtues of it resided in a volatile or in a fixed substance, not any very great benefit has resulted from the laborious exertions of those who have persued that plan. They have indeed taught us to distinguish the different degrees of the same quality in different bodies, & have tended to establish a more correct pharmacy; but as to any

effect they have produced in ascertaining the virtues of medicines, it may be set down as next to nothing. For whether the medicinal virtue be found to reside in a volatile, or a fixed, in a gummy or resinous matter, experience alone can determine as to the nature of that virtue in them.

The different theories which now began to prevail in the schools of physic, had, as might be expected, a wonderful influence in modifying the state of the Materia Medica. Some, as the followers of Stahl, adopting the notion of an archæus, introduced remedies of a superstitious & inert kind, & rejected offered systems, of the most powerful nature. Others, as the mechanical physicians introducing the Corpuscularian philosophy, endeavoured to explain the operation of medicines upon the body, by their figure, size & density.

At the period of the introduction of Chemical reasoning into medicine, physicians generally considered the causes of disease to depend on the state of the fluids, & that the operation of medicines consisted chiefly in changing that state. However, such opinions have been carried to an unwarrantable length,

whilst the state of the solids were so little attended to, yet I cannot but be persuaded that the total abandonment of that system, has brought us to an opposite extreme, not more satisfactorily made out. By divesting the fluids of any participation whatever in the operations of disease or of being acted upon by the means employed for their cure 9/10ths of the whole system is altogether excluded by this sweeping sentiment, from the rank they must hold in the animal economy. If the fluids were merely dead matter circulating in the system, the objections to the humoral pathology would certainly deserve to be regarded as conclusive; but if they are living parts of our frames equally with the solids, it is too much to exclude them from their share of disease, or favor a power of being acted on by the means of cure.

However far from perfect the doctrines of the Materia Medica may still be regarded, it cannot be doubted that the progress of philosophy has nevertheless corrected many gross & superstitious follies that were formerly intermixed with it. Chemistry has given us a new set of medicines, of the most valuable kind, & has equally enabled us to reject many that formerly made

a conspicuous part of the Materia Medica. It has taught us, by correcting its own errors, a greater accuracy in preparing the articles we employ, & to reject the useless operations of former times. Pharmacy, through its means, is now really a science, whilst formerly it was merely a random association of heterogeneous materials. Chemistry as connected with medicine, pervades every division of the sciences, from the physician in full practice, down to the humble preparer of the drugs he employs.

The great importance of the Materia Medica to the student of physic must be apparent to all, who consider the objects of which it treats, to be the weapons with which the future physician is to oppose the ravages of disease & death. Without a knowledge of this branch of his profession, vain are his attainments in all others. Theoretically he may indeed combat sickness, but put him to the test of practice, & all his learning is of little consequence. In vain are the looks of the patient & his friends directed for assistance to him, who knows not the articles he ought to employ for relief, or knows them but by name, so as to render it a

matter more of chance than judgment if he prescribes the right one. A want of knowledge of the Materia Medica, is no more compensated by a full acquaintance with the other branches of the profession, than the want of a practical acquaintance of swimming to the individual, who has theoretically attained every information on the subject. If it would be a reproach to an artist not to know the various instruments of his own profession, how much more reproachful must it be to the physician to be unacquainted with the means by which his practice is to be exercised for the safety of his patient; for however, well informed he may be as to the changes which should be made in the body, to produce health, yet if he knows not by what means to effect these changes, he can do no service. Nor is it enough to have cursorily learned the names of his medicines, for without a perfect knowledge of their nature & properties, he will soon expose himself by his improper or injudicious prescriptions — & if he does his patient any good, it will indubitably be the result of a fortunate chance. It is to be remembered, that the application of

all medicines is made to the living body. It is the vital principle inherent in it which brings them into action, & it is from this too, that different & sometimes opposite effects are produced in different subjects, from some peculiarity of constitution; nor can this be determined before hand, but is to be learned from experience alone.

"That costly good, that none e'er bought or sold
For gem, or pearl, or miser's store twice told."

It is therefore necessary for the physician to be acquainted with this diversity of action in the remedies he administers, & be prepared accordingly to meet the result. As he, who has passed through every grade of promotion in an Army, will be the most likely to form the experienced commander, so will that man, who has attended with assiduity to every branch of his professional pursuits, be most likely to become the accomplished physician.

In a profession like that of medicine, where nothing is degrading, however it may be repugnant to our feelings, which has the benefit of our patient for its object, how contemptible must that member of it feel, who finds the period

arrived, in which his former inattention or neglect, shall utterly incapacitate him from affording that relief, which his suffering fellow creature is expecting from his hands?

porque es el conducto por donde Dios embia à los enfermos un bien tan precioso como la salud: es el instrumento de que usa la mano de Dios para hazer el mayor de los bienes corporales, y es en la tierra como una coda soberana, que se anda haziendo ridas." — Don Juan de Zabaleta.

B.

According to Alston in his treatise on the Materia Medica, Vol. 1. p. 14., the following number of articles constituted the M. Med, of different periods.

	Min.	Reg.	Am.
Hippocrates,	36	300	150
Dioscorides,	90	700	168
Paul of Ægina,	—	570	—

. Dale, in his Pharmacologia, enumerates 91 628 142.

C.

The learned & celebrated Abad. Dacier speaking upon the same subject, uses this remarkable language. "Magna interim ducor Posteritatis reverentia: non ideo tamen minoris æstimo doctos viros qui hodie

Appendix.

A.

"El medico, en fin, que es medico, es digno de grande estimacion, porque es el conducto por donde Dios embia à los enfermos vn bien tan precioso como la salud: es el instrumento de que vsa la mano de Dios para hazer el mayor de los bienes corporales, y es en la tierra como vna cosa soberana, que se anda haziendo vidas". — Don Juan de Zabaleta.

B.

According to Alston in his treatise on the Materia Medica, vol. 1. p. 14., the following number of articles constituted the M. Med, of different periods.

	Min.	beg.	An.
Hippocrates,	36	300	150
Dioscorides,	90	700	168
Paul of Ægina,	—	570	—

. Dale, in his Phoermacologia, enumerates 91 628 142.

C.

The learned & celebrated And. Dacier speaking upon the same subject, uses this remarkable language. "Magna interim ducor Posteritatis reverentia: non ideo tamen minoris æstimo doctos viros qui hodie

vivunt; multi sunt fateor, qui seculum nostrum exornant; qui priora potuissent exornare; in quibus tamen ne unum, quidem novi, qui non honoret et colat antiquos, cui non idem quod illis sapiat, aut qui eorum præcepta non observet; unde quantum aberraveris, tantum ab ipsa natura et veritate discesseris. [Neque verear confirmare non esse difficilius sine luce oculis objecta perspicere, quam solidam laudem adipisci et ingenium excolere, aliis rationibus quam quas Græci et Romani nobis præscripserunt."

The following observations of the learned Harris, on this subject, may be offered in support of what Dacier has advanced above. "To be competently skilled in the ancient languages is by no means a work of insuperable pains; the very progress itself is attended with delight, & resembles a journey through some pleasant country, where every mile we advance new charms arise. It is certainly as easy to be a scholar as a gamester, or many other characters equally illiberal & low. The same application, the same quantity of habit will fit us for one as for the other: & as to those who tell us with an air of seeming wisdom, that it is men, not books, we must study, to become knowing; this I have always remarked, from repeated experience, to be the

common consolation & language of dunces. They shelter their ignorance under a few bright examples, whose transcendent abilities, without the common helps, have been sufficient ~~of~~ themselves to great & important ends. But, alas! "Decepit exemplar, vitiis imitabile."— Hermes.

D.

Pliny in the 7th book, 8th chapter of his Natural History, speaking of those born with their feet foremost, as brought forth unnaturally, terminates the chapter by saying, "And in truth by the right order & course of nature, a man is brought into the world with his head first, but is carried forth with his feet foremost." As this custom of conveying a corpse to the grave, is uniformly still practised, I should be much obliged to any one who would point out its origin; as I have never heard it even adverted to!

Finis.